

Q. When did CAPR begin developing a Plan B—such as a virtual exam or a “no-touch” exam?

CAPR has been working over the past several months to adapt the exam to the realities of COVID-19, and we have assessed both a virtual and a “no-touch” option during this time. While other professions in the healthcare sector are attempting to pivot to a “no touch” exam, physiotherapy is an inordinately high-touch profession. CAPR and our Board is assessing the value of a no-touch exam as a substitute for the Clinical Component. We have not yet confirmed that such an exam would test relevant competencies, particularly for candidates with experience in a clinical setting.

We recognize that offering virtual exams seems to be the most obvious way to “pandemic-proof” the PCE. While CAPR transitioned to remote proctoring for the Written Component, the Clinical Component would need to be significantly adapted to ensure the exam tests relevant competencies and retains psychometric validity in a virtual setting. This process will require more time and significant consultation with subject matter experts and relevant CAPR stakeholders.

Q. When will CAPR announce 2021 dates for the Clinical Component?

CAPR has already announced the 2021 PCE schedule, which you can review [here](#). CAPR will be adding Clinical Component dates to ensure we can accommodate all candidates who had their exams cancelled in 2020, as well as those looking to attempt the exam for the first time in 2021.

We cannot predict the course of the pandemic, but we can commit to making the Clinical Component as pandemic proof as is reasonably possible. Our work to safeguard against further cancellations in 2021 is already underway. CAPR and our Board has no intention of suspending the Clinical Component for a significant period.

Q. Why can't my clinical experience be substituted for the Clinical Component exam? I've already been practicing for months.

Provincial Regulators across Canada—except Quebec—require candidates to pass both components of the Physiotherapy Competency Exam before becoming fully licenced for independent practice. In most jurisdictions, this requirement satisfies legislative imperatives for self-regulated professions, such as physiotherapy. A pan-Canadian, standardized licencing exam is an objective method to ensure that every physiotherapist licenced in Canada practices safely and ethically across all entry-to-practice competencies. This uniform regulatory standard also supports labour mobility for physiotherapists within Canada, which is a central precept of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.



Q. How will you prioritize candidates in the new year?

Registered Candidates will be accommodated in the order in which their applications were received (i.e., Exam A candidates, Exam B candidates and so on). To ensure we can accommodate the increased demand for the Clinical Component in 2021, CAPR's work to adapt the Clinical Component will consider the site capacity and staffing challenges we experienced throughout 2020.

Q. Since Exam A has been cancelled, should I transfer into Exam B to ensure I get a spot in the first available exam?

No. Exam A candidates will maintain their place at the "start of the line". Candidates will be prioritized in the order in which their applications were received.

Q. Can I withdraw entirely and get a refund?

Yes, you can. If you wish to withdraw your registration in the Clinical Component exam, CAPR will refund your fee in full.

Q. If I withdraw from the exam and receive a refund, will I need to begin the application process again?

Yes. If you withdraw from the exam, you will need to begin the application process again. You will be able to apply for any exam with an OPEN application status, and your new application will be considered based on the date it is received.